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Weſtminſter, March 21.

THIS Day his Majeſty came to the Houſe of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes ſeated on the Throne, with the uſual Solemnity, Sir William Oldes, Gentleman-Uſher of the Black Rod, was ſent with a Meſſage from his Majeſty to the Houſe of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the Houſe of Peers; the Commons being come thither accordingly, and having preſented the Honourable Spencer Compton, Eſq; for their Speaker, whom his Majeſty approved, his Majeſty was pleaſed to make the following moſt gracious Speech to both Houſes.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THIS being the Firſt Opportunity that I have had of Meeting My People in Parliament, ſince it pleaſed Almighty God, of His good Providence to Call Me to the Throne of my Anceſtors, I moſt gladly make uſe of it to Thank My Faithful and Loving Subjects for that Zeal and Firmneſs that hath been ſhewn in Defence of the Proteſtant Succeſſion, againſt all the Open and Secret Practices that have been uſed to Defeat it; And I ſhall never Forget the Obligations I have to thoſe who have Diſtinguiſhed themſelves upon this Occaſion.

It were to be wiſh'd, that the Unparallel'd Succeſſes of a War which was ſo wiſely and cheerfully Supported by this Nation, in order to Procure a good Peace had been Attended with a ſuitable Concluſion: But it is with Concern I muſt tell you, that ſome Conditions, even of this Peace Eſſential to the Security and Trade of Great Britain, *are not yet duly Executed, and the Performance of the Whole may be look'd upon as Precarious, until we ſhall have form'd Defenſive Alliances to Guarranty the preſent Treaties.*

The Pretender who ſtill Reſides in Lorrain, *Threatens to Diſturb Us, and Boaſts of the Aſſiſtance which he ſtill expects here to Repair his former Diſappointments.*

A great Part of our Trade is rendred Impracticable; This, if not Retrieved, muſt Deſtroy Our Manufactures, and Ruin Our Navigation.

The Publick Debts are very Great, and Surprizingly Encreaſed, even ſince the Fatal Ceſſation of Arms. My firſt Care was to prevent a farther Encreaſe of theſe Debts, by Paying off forthwith a great Number of Ships, which had been kept in Pay, when there was no Occaſion for Continuing ſuch an Expenſe.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

I Rely upon you for ſuch Supplies as the preſent Circumſtances of Our Affairs require for this Year's Service, and for the Support of the Publick Faith; the Eſtimates ſhall be laid before you, that you may Conſider of them, and what you ſhall judge Neceſſary for your Safety, I ſhall think Sufficient for Mine.

I doubt not but you will Concur with Me in Opinion that nothing can Contribute more to the Support of the Credit of the Nation, than a ſtrict Obſervance of all Parliamentary Engagements.

The Branches of the Revenue formerly Granted for the Support of the Civil Government are ſo far Incumbred and Alienated that the Produce of the Funds which remain, and have been Granted to Me, will fall much ſhort of what was at firſt deſigned for Maintaining the Honour and Dignity of the Crown; and ſince it is My Happineſs (as I am confident you think it yours) to ſee a Prince of Wales, *who may in due time Succeed Me on the Throne, and to ſee Him Bleſſed with many Children, the beſt and moſt valuable Pledges of Our Care and Concern for Your Proſperity, this muſt Occaſion an Expenſe to which the Nation has not of many Years been accuſtomed; but ſuch as ſurely no Man will grudge: And therefore I do not doubt but you will think of it with that Affection which I have Reaſon to hope for from you.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Eyes of all Europe *are upon you, waiting the Iſſue of this Firſt Seſſion. Let no Unhappy Diviſions of Parties here at Home, Divert you from Purſuing the Common Intereſt of your Country. Let no Wicked Inſinuations Diſquiet the Minds of My Subjects. The Eſtabliſhed Conſtitution in Church and State ſhall be the Rule of My Government; The Happineſs, Eaſe, and Proſperity of My People, ſhall be the chief Care of My Life. Thoſe who Aſſiſt Me in Carrying on theſe Meaſures, I ſhall always Eſteem My beſt Friends, and I doubt not but that I ſhall be Able, with your Aſſiſtance to Diſappoint the Deſigns of thoſe who would Deprive Me of that Bleſſing which I moſt Value, the Affection of My People.*

Venice, March 8. Three Men of War, with ſeveral Gallies and Tranſports, having on board 200000 Ducats, 2000 Men, and Stores of Ammunition and Proviſions, are ready to put to Sea for the Morea, but are detained by contrary Winds: A new Man of War carrying 70 Guns is launched, and another Convoy is providing to follow this. The Pope has promiſed to buy 4 Ships of War in France, to add to them 3 Galleys of his own, and to put them into the Service of this Republick againſt the Turks; but this State muſt Arm and Man them at its own Expence. The Earl of Peterborough is here at preſent: The Earl of Burlington ſet out the 5th Inſtant for France, in his Way to England. 'Tis adviſed from Rome, that on the 20th of laſt Month a Con-